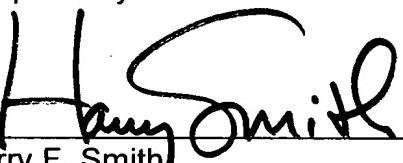


REMARKS

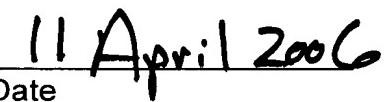
This amendment cancels claims 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer, corrects a typographical error in the claims, and places the abstract in U.S. filing format. The amendment was not made for reasons related to patentability, and the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of the amended claims, as well as for all of the other claims, should remain intact.

A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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